

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07

FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05

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TAGS: UNGA, EGEN

SUBJ: UNGA 7TH SPECIAL SESSION--SUMMARY OF FIRST WEEK'S
GENERAL DEBATE STATEMENTS

1. SUMMARY. THE BASIC THRUSE OF GENERAL DEBATE STATEMENTS DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF THE 7TH SPECIAL SESSION HAS BEEN COOPERATION TO ACHIEVE CONCRETE AND POSITIVE RESULTS. IN CONTRAST TO MOST STATEMENTS BY INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES, THE US STATEMENT COMES THROUGH AS PROMISING SOMETHING REAL AND TANGIBLE. DIFFERENCES WITHIN THE G-77 ARE QUIETLY MANIFEST BUT THE EMPHASIS IS STILL ON SOLIDARITY. THERE ARE STILL SERIOUS SUBSTANTIVE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE G-77 AND DCS AS WELL AS DIFFERENT PERCEPTIONS OF THE ROLE OF THE UN SYSTEM. BUT THE GENERAL ATMOSPHERE IS MUCH IMPROVED FROM LAST YEAR AND INDICATES THE POSSIBILITY OF SOME FORM OF CONSENSUS. END SUMMARY.

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2. THE MISSION HAS REPORTED THE INDIVIDUAL STATEMENTS MADE DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF GENERAL DEBATE (PLENARY) AT THE 7TH SPECIAL SESSION. THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY WHICH FOCUSES NOT ON THE DETAILS BUT ON THE OVERALL TONE OF THESE STATEMENTS. READERS SHOULD BEAR IN MIND THE GENERAL DEBATE SPEECHES REPRESENT FOR THE MOST PART GENERAL STATEMENTS OF NATIONAL POLICY AND ARE NOT NECESSARILY INDICATIVE OF POSITIONS ON THE SPECIFIC ITEMS WHICH ARE TO BE NEGOTIATED DURING THE SESSION IN THE AD HOC COMITE.

3. CLEARLY, THE DOMINANT THEME OF THE GENERAL DEBATE IS "COOPERATION, NOT CONFRONTATION." ALTHOUGH MUCH OF THE G-77 RHETORIC REMAINS AND SEVERAL LDC SPOKESMEN HAVE REFERRED DISPARAGINGLY TO THE INTRANSIGENCE OF INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES, THE STRIDENT TONES WHICH CHARACTERIZED EARLIER DEBATES IS MISSING. IN MANY INSTANCES, THIS APPROACH IS WIDENED TO EMBRACE THE NEED TO ACHIEVE "GENUINE CONSENSUS" ON THE FINAL DOCUMENTS OF THIS SESSION.

4. EQUALLY CLEAR IS THE CALL FOR CONCRETE AND POSITIVE ACTION TO BE TAKEN AT THIS SESSION. NEIO, CERDS, ET AL, ARE STILL WITH US, BUT THE BASIC THRUST OF THE G-77 SPOKESMAN (AND SOME OTHERS) IS THAT THE BASIC PRINCIPLES ARE IN PLACE AND THE EFFORT NOW IS NOT THEIR REPETITION BUT THEIR IMPLEMENTATION. THERE IS A CONSTANT REPETITION OF THE NEED FOR URGENT AND PRACTICAL MEASURES.

5. IN THIS CONTEXT THE US STATEMENT (AND TO A LESSER EXTENT THOSE OF THE FRG AND CANADA) COMES THROUGH AS PROMISING SOMETHING REAL AND TANGIBLE. THE PROPOSED US PACKAGE WAS TOO LARGE TO BE IMMEDIATELY DIGESTED AND THERE WAS SOME MINOR CARPING THAT IT DID NOT OFFER ENOUGH. BUT IT STANDS IN CLEAR CONTRAST TO THE HIGH LEVEL OF GENERALITY OF STATEMENTS BY OTHER INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES, THE EC9 AND JAPAN IN PARTICULAR.

6. STATEMENTS BY CHINA AND THE SOVIET BLOC COUNTRIES ARE FUNDAMENTALLY IRRELEVANT TO THE PURPOSES OF THIS SESSION AND ARE SEEN AS SUCH--A REHASH OF DETENTE, DISARMAMENT, NON-RESPONSIBILITY FOR CURRENT ECONOMIC WOES, AND AN EMPHASIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ON PRINCIPLES RATHER THAN ACTION. WHAT IS OBVIOUS TO ALL IS THAT THEY ARE NOT PREPARED TO MAKE ANY REAL CONTRIBUTION.

7. IN THE STATEMENTS BY LDC SPOKESMEN, THE DIFFERENCES WITHIN THE G77 HAVE QUIETLY BEEN MADE MANIFEST. FOR EXAMPLE, WHILE SOME COUNTRI"K\$WRG+-Q#IKKF

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